

SOUTH AFRICAN RADIO LEAGUE NEWS FOR SUNDAY 18 APRIL 2021

Good morning and welcome to the weekly news bulletin of the South African Radio League read by [your name, call sign and QTH]

The South African Radio League broadcasts a news bulletin each Sunday in Afrikaans and English at 08:15 and 08:30 Central African Time respectively on HF and various VHF and UHF repeaters around the country. The bulletin is relayed on Echolink by Johan, ZS6JPL. The audio bulletins can be downloaded from the League website at www.sarl.org.za while the text bulletin can be downloaded from <https://sarlnewsbulletin.wordpress.com/>. To join the Mailchimp bulletin mailing list, send an e-mail to the SARL Secretary.

In the news today:

THE SARL WARD QSO PARTY AND THE ZS4 SPRINT TODAY

THE 2021 SARL VIRTUAL AGM HELD YESTERDAY

and

YOTA ONLINE ON THURSDAY 29 APRIL

Stay tuned for more information on these and other interesting news items.

We start the bulletin with news of three silent keys.

It is with deep regret that we announce that the key of Leon Nel ZS5QY went silent in March after Covid related problems. We extend our sincere condolences to his family and friends.

It is with deep regret that we announce that the key of Badie Badenhorst, ZS4PA of Harrismith, went silent on Sunday 11 April 2021. Badie had been a member of the SARL since the 1960s and enjoyed chatting to fellow radio amateurs passing Harrismith on the N3. We extend our sincere condolences to his son Frans, ZS4FH / ZS6ZR, family, and many friends.

It is with deep regret that we announce that the key of Frank Kriel, ZS1QRM, went silent on Thursday 15 April 2021. Frank had turned 70 on 1 April 2021. We extend our sincere condolences to his wife Gwen, family, and friends.

PAUSE

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THE SARL WARD QSO PARTY AND THE ZS4 SPRINT TODAY

The SARL WARD QSO Party will run from 06:00 to 18:00 UTC today, 18 April, with activity on all amateur bands and modes. Submit your log in MS Word or Excel to secretary@sarl.org.za by 23:59 CAT on Tuesday 20 April to get the 2021 WARD Certificate. Read SARL News of 11 April for the scoring information.

The ZS4 Sprint runs in two sessions on 40 metres with SSB activity from 14:00 to 15:00 UTC and CW activity from 15:00 to 16:00 UTC this afternoon. The exchange is RS(T) report and your provincial or country abbreviation. Submit your log by 23:59 CAT on Friday 23 April 2021 by e-mail to zs4srk@gmail.com. Turn to page 77 of the 2021 Blue Book for the rules.

ELECTRONIC VOTING FOR THE SARL AFS CLOSES ON 22 APRIL

The Electronic Voting for the SARL Annual Financial Statements for the Year ended 30 June 2020 will close at 23:59 CAT on Thursday 22 April and not Wednesday 21 April as reported in SARL News last week. Go to the public voting page <http://www.sarl.org.za/Web3/ElectronicVoting/Default.aspx> to cast your vote. Follow the instructions on the voting page.

THE 2021 SARL VIRTUAL AGM HELD YESTERDAY

The 2021 SARL Virtual AGM started at 10:00 CAT on the Bluejeans platform with Nico, ZS6QL the SARL President welcoming all the delegates. About 168 members attended the AGM, either by logging in on the online platform or submitting a proxy. Nico presented his report to the meeting, which can be found in the 2021 Annual Report. Chris, ZS6GM presented the Financial report as shown in the AGM Booklet. Noel, ZR6DX spoke about the ICASA licensing system and Hans, ZS6AKV spoke about the Type Approval regulation. The two motions were presented to the meeting and discussed. The voting on these motions as well as the financial motions will start at 00:01 CAT on Saturday 24 April and close at 23:59 CAT on Monday 3 May 2021. A SARL Communication will be sent out with more details during this week.

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YOTA ONLINE 29 APRIL 2021

The next Youngsters on the Air (YOTA) Online takes place from 18:00 UTC (20:00 CAT) on Thursday 29 April. YOTA say, “In this newest episode the team will present the main topic ‘The end... but a new beginning!’” This time we will give you some insights on our recent YOTA Online sessions, talk about our future with this and other upcoming projects. Further, we will focus on the ongoing pandemic problem and its possibilities.

CONTEST NEWS

The Contest Committee received 15 logs for the SARL 80 m QSO Party held on Thursday 1 April. It was determined that some 63 radio amateurs were active in the contest period.

1st Jan, ZS4JAN – 535 points

2nd Johann, ZS4DZ – 480 points

3rd Hans, ZS6KR – 450 points

Thank you to all the participants, the full results will be published in HF Happenings 935. The 2nd leg will take place on Thursday 7 October.

The second leg of the SARL 40 m Grid Square Club Sprint will be on the air from 12:00 to 13:00 UTC (14:00 to 15:00 CAT) on Tuesday 27 April with CW and phone activity. The exchange is a realistic RS or RST report, your Club name, and your 4-character grid square. The QSY Rule applies. All the information is on page 65 of the 2021 Blue Book.

The ZS Parks on the Air Activity is a fun event to encourage radio amateurs to take part in the Parks on the Air (POTA) programme. The activity is open to all radio amateurs and it is not a contest. You need to make 10 QSOs to activate a park and the exchange is an RS, RST or RSQ report and the POTA/WWFF reference. You will find a list of Southern African Parks at <https://zsfaunaandflora.wordpress.com/>, ensure that the park you want to activate is on the list. More information on page 106 of the 2021 Blue Book. The activity is run during the school holiday.

The Autumn ZS SOTA Activity Day is on the air from 22:00 UTC 30 April to 21:59 UTC on Saturday 1 May 2021 or 00:00 to 23:59 CAT on 1 May. This is a fun event to encourage radio amateurs to take part in the Summits on the Air (SOTA) programme. The QSO Party is open to all radio amateurs. Turn to page 104 of the Blue Book for all the details.

The AWA Valve QSO Party is on the air from 13:00 to 17:00 UTC (15:00 to 19:00 CAT) on Saturday 1 May and Sunday 2 May. The AM QSO Party is on Saturday and the SSB QSO Party is on Sunday with activity on 40 and 80 m. You will find all the rules on page 100 of the Blue Book.

CLUB NEWS

At the AGM of the Durban Amateur Radio Club held on Saturday 10 April 2021, the following members were elected to the committee.

Chairman and Treasurer: Louis de Bruin, ZS5LP

Vice-Chairman: Sean Beukes, ZS5TI

Secretary: Martin Botha, ZS5ADL

Members: Aubrey Worthington, ZS5ACW; Denham Eva, ZS5DE and Graham Walker, ZS5GW

PROPAGATION REPORT

Hannes Coetzee, ZS6BZP, reports that the solar activity is expected to be at low levels. There is currently a single sunspot region visible. There is a possibility of minor solar flaring. If you want to do your own frequency predictions, the expected effective sunspot number for the week will be around one. The 10 to 30 m bands will especially during the late afternoons, provide some good DX fun. For more information, please visit the website spaceweather.sansa.org.za.

Finally, a diary of some upcoming events:

Today – World Amateur Radio Day, the WARD QSO Party and the ZS4 Sprint

22 April – Voting for the SARL Annual Financial Statements close

23 April – Registration for the May RAE and provincial schools close, and the start of the ZS POTA Activity.

24 April – International Marconi Day and the opening of voting for the AGM Motions

27 April – Freedom Day and the SARL 40 m Grid Square Sprint

29 April – YOTA Online

1 May – Workers Day, the ZS-SOTA Activity Day and the AWA Valve AM QSO Party

2 May – The AWA Valve SSB QSO Party and closing of the ZS POTA Activity

3 May - Provincial Schools re-open and voting closes on AGM Motions.

8 and 9 May – The SARL VHF/UHF Digital contest

9 May – Mother's Day

12 May – The Early Morning Coffee Sprint

To conclude our bulletin, a recap of our main news story:

The SARL WARD QSO Party will run from 06:00 to 18:00 UTC today, 18 April, with activity on all amateur bands and modes. The ZS4 Sprint runs in two sessions on 40 metres with SSB activity from 14:00 to 15:00 UTC and CW activity from 15:00 to 16:00 UTC this afternoon.

This concludes our bulletin for this morning.

We invite clubs and individuals to submit news items of interest to radio amateurs and shortwave listeners, in both English and Afrikaans, if possible, by following the News Inbox link on the South African Radio League web page. News items to be included in the bulletin should reach the news team no later than the Thursday preceding the bulletin date.

You are welcome to join us every Sunday morning for the weekly radio programme, Amateur Radio Today at 10:00 CAT. The programme can be heard on VHF and UHF repeaters countrywide and on 7 082 kHz lower side-band by courtesy of Louis, ZS5LP. A rebroadcast by Andy, ZS6ADY can be heard on Monday evenings at 19:30 CAT on 3 620 kHz.

We welcome your signal reports, comments, and suggestions; please send these by e-mail to artoday@sarl.org.za.

You have listened to a news bulletin compiled by Dennis Green, ZS4BS, edited by Herman Erasmus, ZS6CTA and read by

From the news team, best wishes for the week ahead.